

Connecticut has not merely fallen, it has literally tumbled to the bottom of the 50 states in so many areas that it has become the target of late night talk shows and called out by other state politicians as being not what they want their states to become. To think that anyone would relish that achievement would question their sanity. Yet the willingness to acquiesce to the demands of the states Union employees is shameful and must stop. According to the recent Townsend / Biggs report, Connecticut is 4th Highest Pay and Benefits of State Employees in 50 States 5th Highest Premium over Private Sector. Connecticut state employees enjoy a 33% compensation premium over the state's comparable private sector worker Highest Retirement Health Care Benefit Among the 50 States Worst Combination of Overcompensation and Underfunding of the 50 States. In 2021 there were 13% of state retirees residing in Florida. A .6% increase over 2017 according to www.openpension.gov. CT. With a massive number of applicants for early retirement, it would be foolish to not think that many of them are eyeing Florida as a bastion of sanity and fiscal responsibility. "The mass retirement is being triggered by agreed-upon changes in cost-of-living adjustments for state employees. As of July 1, 2022, there will no longer be a minimum cost-of-living adjustment for retired state employee salaries, and cost-of-living increases would be delayed for 30 months after retirement." (Consider Why 'unprecedented' number of CT state workers may soon retire 11.21.21)]. This talent drain will only make the inefficiency of state government more intolerable and certainly more expensive. And who is going to be left to fund these overages but the very people who employ these overpaid union workers. These very people who have no one to guarantee their retirement yet MUST pay their taxes, knowing that their money is a for the salary, pension and health benefits for someone working for the state, having a better quality of living than they themselves enjoy. Just as I was finishing this testimony up popped a report for 2021 from the publication Moneywise that showed the most moved out States for that year. Connecticut came in worse than California at 60.1% net move-outs while the winner was New Jersey at 70.5%. Now the governor has mandated that all state employees shall work from home as an edict that leaves 2.5 million square feet of state-owned Office Buildings barren and the businesses that looked forward to those employees return will find it difficult to survive selling products and services that no one is there to buy. Up until the pandemic it seems that Connecticut was an ardent follower of whatever Draconian or illogical legislation or mandates were issued in California and was quick to try to inject the same insanity on the other side of the country. Now it seems that Connecticut has taken the lead for whatever states are crazy enough to follow them to the bottom. If bankruptcy of a state ever becomes allowable, it's certain that Connecticut can at least become number one at something. As a former resident of this beautiful state and someone who has been deeply vested and troubled by the direction that the state has allowed itself to be drawn, I can only hope that some sense of reason and fiscal responsibility will return.